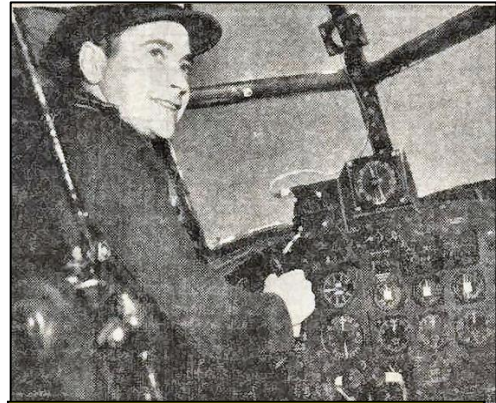


All - Australian crew brings home 'G for George'

Veteran bomber going to War Museum

"I could kiss Australia. I'm so happy to be home again," said Flying-Officer G. B. Young, when "G for George," the veteran Lancaster bomber, reached Brisbane. All eight lads in the crew shared the excitement of F/O. Young when the great bomber touched down after its flight from England.

In the 16 months of its operational life, "G for George" has been flown by 29 different crews. With a great red G on its nose, and 90 tiny bombers painted on to signify the number of its attacks on Germany, "G for George" is bound for the Australian War Museum at Canberra. The present crew was assembled for this flight, which began on October 11. The plane made a leisurely crossing. Generator and radio breakdowns delayed its journey in America and across the Pacific.



Pilot of G for George 22 year old Flt Lt E.A. Hudson, D.F.C. and Bar at the controls. Hudson came from Rockhampton, Qld

Hudson's remark when he touched down in Brisbane "It's not as hot as I expected, but a bit dry," as he shook hands with the O/C. of the station, Group Captain G. E. Douglas, was a typical Air Force masterpiece of understatement, for a raging dust-storm was in full force. Hudson had an infectious smile. A modest lad, he had a reputation for great gallantry and devotion to duty. He had completed two tours of bombing operations, the first with an R.A.F. squadron, and the second with the original Australian Lancaster squadron. "They're all doing well over there, and the end is in sight," he said. His crew said, "Our pilot did a great job all the way over, and was very considerate to his men. He didn't let anything worry him at any stage of the game." The second pilot, F/O. F. P. Smith, D.F.C, came from Newcastle, and was a lorry driver in civil life. He made 25 trips over Germany and Italy, and was awarded his D.F.C. in October of last year. His main concern when he reached Australia was to get his laundry done. There had been no opportunity for laundry since they left Montreal, and they were only allowed to carry 50lb. of luggage.

Flt Off W. C. Gordon, D.F.C. the navigator, had been overseas for three years. Married, with two sons, he was an accountant before the war. His home was in Raleigh, N.S.W. As soon as possible after the war he wanted to take his wife for a trip to England to show her all the places he had visited. Flt Off T. V. McCarthy, D.F.C. and Bar, was one of the most experienced bomb-aimers in the RAAF. He had completed two tours in Lancasters. The second included 13 trips to Berlin. It is said that his favourite song was "It's a hot time in the town of Berlin." McCarthy was the only member of the crew to wear the golden eagle, the Pathfinder's badge, on his tunic breast-pocket.

He was one of "Bennett's boys," which gave him a special interest for Brisbane, for it is the home town of Air Vice-Marshal Donald Bennett, chief of Britain's squadrons of Pathfinders, youngest of Britain's air marshals.

FSgt Harry Tickle, the fitter, felt that he had a personal affection for "G for George," for he had been in charge of the bomber's maintenance since it began operations in December, 1942. He had kept a log-book recording details of all "G for George's" 90 trips. His home was in Adelaide, where his wife and two daughters, Pat and Joan, live. He had brought them each a sleeping doll. He didn't know what he would do in civil life after the war, and said with a grin, "I'd like to be a wing commander, or something like that."



Sgt KA Ower (left) with F/O WC Gordon and FltLt Hudson (Centre).

The chief entertainer on the trip out, the crew agreed, was Sgt. K. A. Ower, fitter, of Telamón, N.S.W. He had been three and a half years in England. "And I only had six steaks in that time," he said. "I could do with a steak and eggs right now." After service with Coastal Command he was posted to a Lancaster crew. He had a wife and two sons and was waiting to come home when told he was going with F/Sgt. Tickle in "G for George." None of the boys had much time for sightseeing on the trip out, for at each airport work came first.



Crew of G for George L-R: FOff FP Smith, FOff WC Gordon, FOff TV McCarthy, FltLt EA Hudson, FOff Tindale, FOff GB Young, FSgt Harry Tickle, Sgt KA Ower.

Baby of the crew was 21 year old F/O. G. H. Tindale, from Cremorne, Sydney, who was the wireless operator air-gunner. He was the only member of the crew who made operational flights in "G for George." On one of those three flights over Europe he was awarded the D.F.M. A bank clerk in peacetime, he was looking forward most to "a good surf at Newport." He was in the wilds of Scotland when he heard news that he was to return with the bomber.

FOff Young, whose home is in Matraville. N.S.W., was awarded the D.P.M. when a sergeant for the part he played in his first operational flight in an attack on the Ruhr. He was wounded in the face from ack-ack splinters, and became unconscious. Recovering consciousness he found an oxygen bottle on fire and beat out the flames.